from the mid and south Tapti fields to the Management Committee (MC) of the field. The plan would be implemented after approval by MC.

(c) On the request of the State Government of Gujarat, an "in principle" allocation of natural gas to the extent of 2.25 Million Standard Cubic Metres per Day (MMSCMD) was made for the power project at Pi^. avav in Gujarat. The allocation is subject to the additional development of the field for which the development plan has now been submitted. However, the JV is allowed direct marketing of the additional gas from the Tapti field at market-related prices in terms of the Production Sharing Contract. Therefore, the Pipavav project developers have been asked to directly approach the JV concerned to tie-up the gas required for their proposed project. The JV have been asked to give priority in supplies to units that have been given "in principle" allocations.

Promotion of Bio-diesel

†*15. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a policy decision on the proposal to propagate the use of bio-diesel as a fuel of the future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) With a view to propagating and promoting the increased use of bio-diesel in transport fuel, bio-diesel is being produced mainly on a pilot scale and field trials are being conducted by oil marketing companies to establish efficacy of bio-diesel and diesel blend in the transport sector. The Planning Commission had set up a Committee on Development of Bio-fuel which recommended the launching of a National Mission on Bio-diesel with a special focus on the plantation of Jatropha curcas. The Ministry of Rural Development has been made the nodal Ministry for the National Mission on Bio-diesel and that Ministry has recently got a Detailed Project Report prepared by The Energy and Research Institute (TERI).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.